

## SENATE RESOLUTION 186

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Laurel Jones Childs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Laurel Jones Childs; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Childs was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Tiptonville to Cara Williams Jones and the late Richard S. Jones on July 24, 1958, Mrs. Childs graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in Home Economics/Early Childhood Education and earned her Master of Arts in Education from Cumberland University in 2001; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional person of prolific talent, Laurel Childs sang and danced at Libertyland and toured for the Department of Defense in Greenland and Germany; and

WHEREAS, a beloved veteran teacher of twenty-seven years, Mrs. Childs taught for Dyess Elementary, Gardenview Elementary, Presbyterian Day School, and Evangelical Christian School; during this time, she led eight trips around the world with People2People Student Ambassadors; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished writer, Laurel Childs received three first place awards for her newspaper columns and inspired countless readers who followed her website, which chronicled her courageous battle with ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian, Laurel Childs was known for her extraordinary faith; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Childs's benevolence continues even after her death, as two charitable funds have been established in her memory; the Laurel Childs Memorial of the AIDS Orphan House Building Fund will use donations in memory of Mrs. Childs to support the building of

AIDS orphan houses in Kenya, and a fund within the Lake County Alumni organization will offer a scholarship each year to a graduate of Lake County High School, Mrs. Childs's alma mater; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Childs was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Jones Childs enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Steve, and was the proud mother of Catherine and Casey. She is also survived by her sisters, Nancy Jones Blake and Sharon Jones Hutchison; her brother, Evan Jones; her mother, Cara Jones; her nephews, Evan Swift and Jeremy Jones; her niece, Katie Jones; her parents-in-law, Danny and Pat Childs; and her grandmother-in-law, Mary Crawford; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Childs leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Laurel Jones Childs, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Childs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.